

Appl. No.: 10/734,452
Amdt. dated 08/15/2005
Reply to Office action of June 20, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

New drawing sheet for FIGS. 6 and 7 are enclosed behind page 12 of this paper. FIGS. 6 and 7 have been provided to show the rotating reflector directly reflecting the ultrasonic signal to and from the transducer when there is a fixed reflector also in communication with the channel for reflecting the ultrasonic signal (as found in claim 4). The new FIGS. 6 and 7 are supported by originally filed FIGS. 2 and 3 and the specification at page 6, line 33 through page 7 line 2.

Attachments: New Sheets 6/7 and 7/7.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated June 20, 2005. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for a timely and thorough review of the above-referenced patent application. Claims 1-22 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 9-12 and 15-22 are rejected, and Claims 7, 8, 13 and 14 are objected to. In this regard, the Examiner indicated that Claims 7-8 and 13-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 7-8, 11, 13-14, and 17 to more clearly define the invention, as explained more fully below. It is respectfully submitted that in light of the arguments and claim amendments, all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Double Patenting

The Office Action advised Applicants that if Claim 13 were to be found allowable, Claim 14 would be a substantial duplicate of Claim 13. Applicants have amended Claim 14 to recite the at least one detent as being defined in the rotating reflector, rather than defined in the handle. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 14 is no longer a substantial duplicate of Claim 13.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to Claims 7-8 and 13-14 because the claims recited “at least one detent” and then recited “the detents.” Applicants have amended Claims 7-8 and 13-14 to substitute “the detents” with “the at least one detent” in each Claim. Therefore, to the extent that this objection would be applied against the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Drawings

The Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show the rotating reflector directly reflecting the ultrasonic signal to and from the transducer (as found in claim 4). Applicants have submitted new Figures 6 and 7, attached hereto as Appendix A

following this paper. New Figures 6 and 7 do not add new matter and are revisions to original Figures 2 and 3 and are supported by the following statement on page 6, line 33 to page 7, line 2 of the originally filed specification: "Alternatively, the transmitted ultrasonic signal 18 may first reflect off the rotating reflector 36 and then the fixed reflector 34." Applicants have also amended the specification to change the above-quoted statement to: "Alternatively, the transmitted ultrasonic signal 118 may first reflect off the rotating reflector 136 and then the fixed reflector 134, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7." Therefore, to the extent that this objection would be applied against the drawings as amended, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Rejections under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable
Over the Cook '476 patent in view of the Cowan '324 patent and the Dory '201 patent and
the Hofstein '885 patent

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-5, 9-10, 15-17 and 21-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,807,476 to Cook et al. ("the Cook '476 patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,121,324 to Cowan ("the Cowan '324 patent") and U.S. Patent No. 3,791,201 to Dory ("the Dory '201 patent"). The Office Action also rejected Claims 6 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Cook '476 patent in view of the Cowan '324 patent and the Cook '476 patent in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,200,885 to Hofstein ("the Hofstein '885 patent"). To the extent that these rejections would be applied against the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Office Action indicated that Claims 7-8 and 13-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 7-8 and 13-14 defined the locking mechanism to include a spring loaded ball and at least one detent. Applicants have alternatively amended Independent Claims 1, 11, and 17 to recite the locking mechanism as comprising a spring-loaded ball and detent assembly. Consistent with the indication of allowability of the dependent claims drawn to the spring-loaded ball and detent of the locking mechanism, Applicants respectfully submit that the Cook '476 patent, the Cowan '324 patent, the Dory '201 patent and the Hofstein '885 patent, taken either individually or in combination, do not disclose a locking mechanism comprising a

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spring-loaded ball and detent assembly. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 9-10 and 15-22 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. Examiner Miller is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

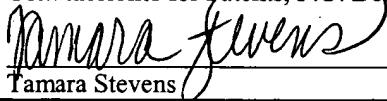


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment,
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 15, 2005



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